

[8 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Alleged torture by Coimbatore Jail authorities

*249. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Ministry has received any complaint from Abdul Nazar Madani or from his relatives or from any organisation regarding severe torture experienced by Abdul Nazar Madani, an undertrial prisoner in Coimbatore Jail, by the Jail authorities;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on it;

(c) whether it has also been alleged in the complaint that proper medical attention is not being extended to him and relatives are not being allowed to visit him; and

(d) if so, Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) A representation by Shri Poonthura Siraj, Secretary, Peoples Democratic Party, Kerala, Poonthura P.O., Thiruvananthapuram-26 alleging *inter alia* the non-provision of proper medical attention, interviews and subjecting Abdul Nazar Madani to torture was received by the Government of India. Prison management being a State subject, the representation was referred to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has intimated that undertrial prisoner 4270 Abdul Nazar Madani is the prime accused in the 1998 Coimbatore serial bomb blast case and is at present confined in Central Prison, Coimbatore.

The State Government has further informed that his health condition is examined by the Prison doctors periodically. While he was confined in Central Prison Salem, he was provided with proper medical treatment for his various ailments by admitting him in the Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital, Salem, from 19.4.2000 to 5.5.2000. Recently, he was admitted in the Coimbatore Government Medical College Hospital on 2.6.2001 for necessary medical treatment for his various ailments and was discharged from the said hospital on 7.6.2001. The Government of Tamil Nadu have issued instructions for admission of

Abdul Nazar Madani in a good private hospital at Coimbatore for taking Angiogram and permission has also been granted to allow one of his family members, preferably his wife, to attend to his needs in the hospital.

The State Government has reported that Shri Madani is allowed interviews with his blood relatives as per the Prison Rules. The State Government has also denied the allegation of Shri Madani's torture in jail.

Growth in tourist traffic

*250. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in June, 2001 there was a negative growth of 3.5 per cent in tourist traffic in India; and

(b) if so, what was the targeted growth for June, 2001, and what steps Government have taken to ensure that henceforth growth targets are not only achieved but actual performance exceeds the targets?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) As per the latest estimate available, there was a decline of 2 per cent in foreign tourist arrival in the month of June 2001 as compared to June 2000. However, in the first seven months *i.e.* from January to July of 2001 as compared to the same period of the previous year, there has been a growth in tourist arrivals of 3.1%.

(b) Month-wise targets for tourist arrivals are not fixed. The objective of the Government is to promote tourism and to increase the tourist inflow into the country. The various efforts made by the Government to promote tourism in India include development and improvement of tourist facilities, infrastructure development, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries, use of information technology to provide facilities to tourists and encouraging private investment in tourism sector.